

OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2005/06/09 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100220054-5

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

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CLASSIFICATION

CIA/OCT

/WHIZLWH 740313

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/WHSS

SOURCE REF:

1	4	7	10
2	5	8	11
3	6	9	12

ITEM NO: WH-4

DATE: 23 MARCH 1974

SUBJECT: CAMBODIA--TEACHER TROUBLES CONTINUE

THE US EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH REPORTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS LOST THE INITIATIVE AGAIN IN DEALING WITH DISGRUNTLED TEACHERS. MOST OF THE SCHOOLS IN PHNOM PENH, WHICH WERE REOPENED ON MARCH 6 AFTER BEING CLOSED FOR ALMOST TWO MONTHS, SHUT DOWN AGAIN ON MARCH 11 AFTER THE TEACHERS RESUMED THEIR STRIKE. THE TEACHERS HAVE VOWED TO WORK ONLY THE FIRST TEN DAYS OF EACH MONTH UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT ACTS ON THEIR DEMAND FOR HIGHER SALARIES. THUS FAR, THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE HAS BEEN FEEBLE AND INDECISIVE. THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, IN PARTICULAR, HAS PROVEN HIS INABILITY TO COPE WITH THE SITUATION. WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON THE DEFENSIVE, THE TEACHERS MAY PRESS FOR EVEN HIGHER WAGES.

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State Department review completed

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MEANWHILE, RADICAL STUDENTS IN PHNOM PENH ARE SHOWING SIGNS OF STIRRING UP MORE TROUBLE. THEY REPORTEDLY ARE PRESSING FOR A COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY ON MARCH 17 FOR STUDENT-TEACHER ACTIVISTS KILLED A YEAR AGO BY SOME OF GENERAL LON NON'S MEN. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY INDICATED THAT SUCH A CEREMONY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED BECAUSE IT MIGHT TURN INTO AN ANTIGOVERNMENT RALLY. IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS VETOED ANY PUBLIC OBSERVANCES ON MARCH 18, THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF SIHANOUK'S OUSTER. CITY OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN WARNED THAT IF LOCAL DISTURBANCES SHOULD OCCUR ON EITHER DATE, THEY SHOULD REFRAIN FROM USING FIREARMS.

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